#### SECOND REGULAR SESSION

[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]

## SENATE BILL NO. 702

#### 98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2016

4037S.01T

### AN ACT

To repeal sections 288.032, 288.380, and 288.381, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to employment security, with existing penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 288.032, 288.380, and 288.381, RSMo, are repealed

- 2 and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 288.032,
- 3 288.380, and 288.381, to read as follows:
  - 288.032. 1. After December 31, 1977, "employer" means:
- 2 (1) Any employing unit which in any calendar quarter in either the
- 3 current or preceding calendar year paid for service in employment wages of one
- 4 thousand five hundred dollars or more except that for the purposes of this
- 5 definition, wages paid for "agricultural labor" as defined in paragraph (a) of
- 6 subdivision (1) of subsection 12 of section 288.034 and for "domestic services" as
- 7 defined in subdivisions (2) and (13) of subsection 12 of section 288.034 shall not
- 8 be considered;
- 9 (2) Any employing unit which for some portion of a day in each of twenty
- 10 different calendar weeks, whether or not such weeks were consecutive, in either
- 11 the current or the preceding calendar year, had in employment at least one
- 12 individual (irrespective of whether the same individual was in employment in
- 13 each such day); except that for the purposes of this definition, services performed
- 14 in "agricultural labor" as defined in paragraph (a) of subdivision (1) of subsection
- 15 12 of section 288.034 and in "domestic services" as defined in subdivisions (2) and
- 16 (13) of subsection 12 of section 288.034 shall not be considered;
- 17 (3) Any governmental entity for which service in employment as defined

- 18 in subsection 7 of section 288.034 is performed;
- 19 (4) Any employing unit for which service in employment as defined in 20 subsection 8 of section 288.034 is performed during the current or preceding 21 calendar year;
- 22 (5) Any employing unit for which service in employment as defined in 23 paragraph (b) of subdivision (1) of subsection 12 of section 288.034 is performed 24 during the current or preceding calendar year;
- 25 (6) Any employing unit for which service in employment as defined in 26 subsection 13 of section 288.034 is performed during the current or preceding 27 calendar year;
- 28 (7) Any individual, type of organization or employing unit which has been 29 determined to be a successor pursuant to section 288.110;
- 30 (8) Any individual, type of organization or employing unit which has 31 elected to become subject to this law pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 3 32 of section 288.080;
- 33 (9) Any individual, type of organization or employing unit which, having 34 become an employer, has not pursuant to section 288.080 ceased to be an 35 employer;
- 36 (10) Any employing unit subject to the Federal Unemployment Tax Act or 37 which, as a condition for approval of this law for full tax credit against the tax 38 imposed by the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, is required, pursuant to such act, 39 to be an employer pursuant to this law.
- 40 2. (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this law, any employer, individual, organization, partnership, corporation, other legal entity or employing 41 unit that meets the definition of "lessor employing unit", as defined in subdivision 42(5) of this subsection, shall be liable for contributions on wages paid by the lessor 43 employing unit to individuals performing services for client lessees of the lessor 44 employing unit. Unless the lessor employing unit has timely complied with the 45 provisions of subdivision (3) of this subsection, any employer, individual, 46 organization, partnership, corporation, other legal entity or employing unit which 47 is leasing individuals from any lessor employing unit shall be jointly and 48 severally liable for any unpaid contributions, interest and penalties due pursuant 49 to this law from any lessor employing unit attributable to wages for services 51 performed for the client lessee entity by individuals leased to the client lessee 52 entity, and the lessor employing unit shall keep separate records and submit 53 separate quarterly contribution and wage reports for each of its client lessee

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entities. Delinquent contributions, interest and penalties shall be collected in 54 55 accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, any governmental entity or nonprofit organization that meets the definition of "lessor employing unit", as defined in subdivision (5) of this subsection, and has elected to become liable for payments in lieu of contributions as provided in subsection 3 of section 288.090, shall pay the division payments in lieu of contributions, interest, penalties and surcharges in accordance with section 288.090 on benefits paid to individuals performing services for the client lessees of the lessor employing unit. If the lessor employing unit has not timely complied with the provisions of subdivision (3) of this subsection, any client lessees with services attributable to and performed for the client lessees shall be jointly and severally liable for any unpaid payments in lieu of contributions, interest, penalties and surcharges due pursuant to this law. The lessor employing unit shall keep separate records and submit separate quarterly contribution and wage reports for each of its client lessees. Delinquent payments in lieu of contributions, interest, penalties and surcharges shall be collected in accordance with subsection 3 of section 288.090. The election to be liable for payments in lieu of contributions made by a governmental entity or nonprofit organization meeting the definition of "lessor employing unit" may be terminated by the division in accordance with subsection 3 of section 288.090.
- (3) In order to relieve a client lessees from joint and several liability and 75 the separate reporting requirements imposed pursuant to this subsection, any 76 77 lessor employing unit may post and maintain a surety bond issued by a corporate 78 surety authorized to do business in Missouri in an amount equivalent to the contributions or payments in lieu of contributions for which the lessor employing 79 unit was liable in the last calendar year in which he or she accrued contributions 80 or payments in lieu of contributions, or one hundred thousand dollars, whichever amount is the greater, to ensure prompt payment of contributions or payments 82 in lieu of contributions, interest, penalties and surcharges for which the lessor 83 employing unit may be, or becomes, liable pursuant to this law. In lieu of a 84 surety bond, the lessor employing unit may deposit in a depository designated by 85 86 the director, securities with marketable value equivalent to the amount required 87 for a surety bond. The securities so deposited shall include authorization to the 88 director to sell any securities in an amount sufficient to pay any contributions or 89 payments in lieu of contributions, interest, penalties and surcharges which the

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lessor employing unit fails to promptly pay when due. In lieu of a surety bond or securities as described in this subdivision, any lessor employing unit may provide the director with an irrevocable letter of credit, as defined in section 92 93 409.5-103, issued by any state or federally chartered financial institution, in an amount equivalent to the amount required for a surety bond as described in this 94 subdivision. In lieu of a surety bond, securities or an irrevocable letter of credit, a lessor employing unit may obtain a certificate of deposit issued by any state or 96 97 federally chartered financial institution, in an amount equivalent to the amount 98 required for a surety bond as described in this subdivision. The certificate of deposit shall be pledged to the director until release by the director. As used in 100 this subdivision, the term "certificate of deposit" means a certificate representing any deposit of funds in a state or federally chartered financial institution for a 102 specified period of time which earns interest at a fixed or variable rate, where 103 such funds cannot be withdrawn prior to a specified time without forfeiture of some or all of the earned interest.

- (4) Any lessor employing unit which is currently engaged in the business of leasing individuals to client lessees shall comply with the provisions of subdivision (3) of this subsection by September 28, 1992. Lessor employing units not currently engaged in the business of leasing individuals to client lessees shall comply with subdivision (3) of this subsection before entering into a written lease agreement with client lessees.
- (5) As used in this subsection, the term "lessor employing unit" means an independently established business entity, governmental entity as defined in subsection 1 of section 288.030 or nonprofit organization as defined in subsection 3 of section 288.090 which, pursuant to a written lease agreement between the lessor employing unit and the client lessees, engages in the business of providing individuals to any other employer, individual, organization, partnership, corporation, other legal entity or employing unit referred to in this subsection as a client lessee.
- (6) The provisions of this subsection shall not be applicable to private employment agencies who provide their employees to employers on a temporary help basis provided the private employment agencies are liable as employers for the payment of contributions on wages paid to temporary workers so employed.
- 3. After September 30, 1986, notwithstanding any provision of section 288.034, for the purpose of this law, in no event shall a for-hire motor carrier as regulated by the Missouri division of motor carrier and railroad safety or whose

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operations are confined to a commercial zone be determined to be the employer of a lessor as defined in 49 CFR Section 376.2(f), or of a driver receiving remuneration from a lessor as defined in 49 CFR Section 376.2(f), provided, however, the term "for-hire motor carrier" shall in no event include an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or any governmental entity.

- 4. The owner or operator of a beauty salon or similar establishment shall not be determined to be the employer of a person who utilizes the facilities of the owner or operator but who receives neither salary, wages or other compensation from the owner or operator and who pays the owner or operator rent or other payments for the use of the facilities.
- 5. For purposes of this chapter, a taxicab driver shall not be considered to be an employee of the company that leases the taxicab to the driver or that provides dispatching or similar rider referral services unless the driver is shown to be an employee of that company by application of the Internal Revenue Service twenty-factor right-to-control test.
- 288.380. 1. Any agreement by a worker to waive, release, or commute such worker's rights to benefits or any other rights pursuant to this chapter or pursuant to an employment security law of any other state or of the federal government shall be void. Any agreement by a worker to pay all or any portion of any contributions required shall be void. No employer shall directly or indirectly make any deduction from wages to finance the employer's contributions required from him or her, or accept any waiver of any right pursuant to this chapter by any individual in his or her employ.
- 9 2. No employing unit or any agent of an employing unit or any other 10 person shall make a false statement or representation knowing it to be false, nor 11 shall knowingly fail to disclose a material fact to prevent or reduce the payment of benefits to any individual, nor to avoid becoming or remaining an employer, 12 13 nor to avoid or reduce any contribution or other payment required from any employing unit, nor shall willfully fail or refuse to make any contributions or 14 payments nor to furnish any required reports nor to produce or permit the 15 inspection or copying of required records. Each such requirement shall apply 16 regardless of whether it is a requirement of this chapter, of an employment 17 security law of any other state or of the federal government. 18
  - 3. No person shall make a false statement or representation knowing it

to be false or knowingly fail to disclose a material fact, to obtain or increase any benefit or other payment pursuant to this chapter, or under an employment security law of any other state or of the federal government either for himself or herself or for any other person.

- 4. No person shall without just cause fail or refuse to attend and testify or to answer any lawful inquiry or to produce books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, and other records, if it is in such person's power so to do in obedience to a subpoena of the director, the commission, an appeals tribunal, or any duly authorized representative of any one of them.
- 5. No individual claiming benefits shall be charged fees of any kind in any proceeding pursuant to this chapter by the division, or by any court or any officer thereof. Any individual claiming benefits in any proceeding before the division or a court may be represented by counsel or other duly authorized agent; but no such counsel or agents shall either charge or receive for such services more than an amount approved by the division.
- 6. No employee of the division or any person who has obtained any list of applicants for work or of claimants for or recipients of benefits pursuant to this chapter shall use or permit the use of such lists for any political purpose.
- 7. Any person who shall willfully violate any provision of this chapter, or of an employment security law of any other state or of the federal government or any rule or regulation, the observance of which is required under the terms of any one of such laws, shall upon conviction be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment, and each such violation or each day such violation continues shall be deemed to be a separate offense.
- 8. In case of contumacy by, or refusal to obey a subpoena issued to, any person, any court of this state within the jurisdiction of which the inquiry is carried on, or within the jurisdiction of which the person guilty of contumacy or refusal to obey is found or resides or transacts business, upon application by the director, the commission, an appeals tribunal, or any duly authorized representative of any one of them shall have jurisdiction to issue to such person an order requiring such person to appear before the director, the commission, an appeals tribunal or any duly authorized representative of any one of them, there to produce evidence if so ordered or there to give testimony touching the matter under investigation or in question; and any failure to obey such order of the court

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56 may be punished by the court as a contempt thereof.

- 9. (1) Any individual or employer who receives or denies unemployment benefits by intentionally misrepresenting, misstating, or failing to disclose any material fact has committed fraud. After the discovery of facts indicating fraud, a deputy shall make a written determination that the individual obtained or denied unemployment benefits by fraud and that the individual must promptly repay the unemployment benefits to the fund. In addition, the deputy shall assess a penalty equal to twenty-five percent of the amount fraudulently obtained or denied. If division records indicate that the individual or employer had a prior established overpayment or record of denial due to fraud, the deputy shall, on the present overpayment or determination, assess a penalty equal to one hundred percent of the amount fraudulently obtained.
- (2) Unless the individual or employer within thirty calendar days after notice of such determination of overpayment by fraud is either delivered in person or mailed to the last known address of such individual or employer files an appeal from such determination, it shall be final. Proceedings on the appeal shall be conducted in accordance with section 288.190.
- 73 (3) If the individual or employer fails to repay the unemployment benefits and penalty, assessed as a result of the deputy's determination that the 74individual or employer obtained or denied unemployment benefits by fraud, such 7576 sum shall be collectible in the manner provided in [sections 288.160 and 288.170 77 for the collection of past due contributions] subsection 14 of this section for the recovery of overpaid unemployment compensation benefits. If the 78 79 individual or employer fails to repay the unemployment benefits that the 80 individual or employer denied or obtained by fraud, the division may offset from any future unemployment benefits otherwise payable the amount of the 81 82 overpayment, or may take such steps as are necessary to effect payment from the 83 individual or employer. Future benefits may not be used to offset the penalty due. Money received in repayment of fraudulently obtained or denied 84 unemployment benefits and penalties shall first be applied to the unemployment 85 benefits overpaid, then to the penalty amount due. [Payments made toward the 86 87 penalty amount duel Regarding payments made toward the penalty, an 88 amount equal to fifteen percent of the total amount of benefits 89 fraudulently obtained shall be immediately deposited into the state's 90 unemployment compensation fund upon receipt and the remaining **penalty amount** shall be credited to the special employment security fund. 91

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92 (4) If fraud or evasion on the part of any employer is discovered by the 93 division, the employer will be subject to the fraud provisions of subsection 4 of 94 section 288.160.

- (5) The provisions of this subsection shall become effective July 1, 2005.
- 96 10. An individual who willfully fails to disclose amounts earned during any week with respect to which benefits are claimed by him or her, willfully fails 97 to disclose or has falsified as to any fact which would have disqualified him or her 98 99 or rendered him or her ineligible for benefits during such week, or willfully fails 100 to disclose a material fact or makes a false statement or representation in order 101 to obtain or increase any benefit pursuant to this chapter shall forfeit all of his 102 or her benefit rights, and all of his or her wage credits accrued prior to the date 103 of such failure to disclose or falsification shall be cancelled, and any benefits 104 which might otherwise have become payable to him or her subsequent to such date based upon such wage credits shall be forfeited; except that, the division 105 106 may, upon good cause shown, modify such reduction of benefits and cancellation of wage credits. It shall be presumed that such failure or falsification was willful 107 108 in any case in which an individual signs and certifies a claim for benefits and 109 fails to disclose or falsifies as to any fact relative to such claim.
  - 11. (1) Any assignment, pledge, or encumbrance of any rights to benefits which are or may become due or payable pursuant to this chapter shall be void; and such rights to benefits shall be exempt from levy, execution, attachment, or any other remedy whatsoever provided for the collection of debt; and benefits received by any individual, so long as they are not mingled with other funds of the recipient, shall be exempt from any remedy whatsoever for the collection of all debts except debts incurred for necessaries furnished to such individual or the individual's spouse or dependents during the time such individual was unemployed. Any waiver of any exemption provided for in this subsection shall be void; except that this section shall not apply to:
  - (a) Support obligations, as defined pursuant to paragraph (g) of subdivision (2) of this subsection, which are being enforced by a state or local support enforcement agency against any individual claiming unemployment compensation pursuant to this chapter; or
  - (b) Uncollected overissuances (as defined in Section 13(c)(1) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977) of food stamp coupons;
- 126 (2) (a) An individual filing a new claim for unemployment compensation 127 shall, at the time of filing such claim, disclose whether or not the individual owes

support obligations, as defined pursuant to paragraph (g) of this subdivision or owes uncollected overissuances of food stamp coupons (as defined in Section 13(c)(1) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977). If any such individual discloses that he or she owes support obligations or uncollected overissuances of food stamp coupons, and is determined to be eligible for unemployment compensation, the division shall notify the state or local support enforcement agency enforcing the support obligation or the state food stamp agency to which the uncollected food stamp overissuance is owed that such individual has been determined to be eligible for unemployment compensation;

- (b) The division shall deduct and withhold from any unemployment compensation payable to an individual who owes support obligations as defined pursuant to paragraph (g) of this subdivision or who owes uncollected food stamp overissuances:
- a. The amount specified by the individual to the division to be deducted and withheld pursuant to this paragraph if neither subparagraph b. nor subparagraph c. of this paragraph is applicable; or
- b. The amount, if any, determined pursuant to an agreement submitted to the division pursuant to Section 454(20)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act by the state or local support enforcement agency, unless subparagraph c. of this paragraph is applicable; or the amount (if any) determined pursuant to an agreement submitted to the state food stamp agency pursuant to Section 13(c)(3)(a) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977; or
- c. Any amount otherwise required to be so deducted and withheld from such unemployment compensation pursuant to properly served legal process, as that term is defined in Section 459(i) of the Social Security Act; or any amount otherwise required to be deducted and withheld from the unemployment compensation pursuant to Section 13(c)(3)(b) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977;
- (c) Any amount deducted and withheld pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subdivision shall be paid by the division to the appropriate state or local support enforcement agency or state food stamp agency;
- (d) Any amount deducted and withheld pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subdivision shall, for all purposes, be treated as if it were paid to the individual as unemployment compensation and paid by such individual to the state or local support enforcement agency in satisfaction of the individual's support obligations or to the state food stamp agency to which the uncollected overissuance is owed as repayment of the individual's uncollected overissuance;

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(e) For purposes of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this subdivision, the term "unemployment compensation" means any compensation payable pursuant to this chapter, including amounts payable by the division pursuant to an agreement pursuant to any federal law providing for compensation, assistance, or allowances with respect to unemployment;

- (f) Deductions will be made pursuant to this section only if appropriate arrangements have been made for reimbursement by the state or local support enforcement agency, or the state food stamp agency, for the administrative costs incurred by the division pursuant to this section which are attributable to support obligations being enforced by the state or local support enforcement agency or which are attributable to uncollected overissuances of food stamp coupons;
- 175 (g) The term "support obligations" is defined for purposes of this 176 subsection as including only obligations which are being enforced pursuant to a 177 plan described in Section 454 of the Social Security Act which has been approved 178 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to Part D of Title IV of 179 the Social Security Act;
- 180 (h) The term "state or local support enforcement agency", as used in this 181 subsection, means any agency of a state, or political subdivision thereof, operating 182 pursuant to a plan described in paragraph (g) of this subdivision;
  - (i) The term "state food stamp agency" as used in this subsection means any agency of a state, or political subdivision thereof, operating pursuant to a plan described in the Food Stamp Act of 1977;
- 186 (j) The director may prescribe the procedures to be followed and the form 187 and contents of any documents required in carrying out the provisions of this 188 subsection;
  - (k) The division shall comply with the following priority when deducting and withholding amounts from any unemployment compensation payable to an individual:
- a. Before withholding any amount for child support obligations or uncollected overissuances of food stamp coupons, the division shall first deduct and withhold from any unemployment compensation payable to an individual the amount, as determined by the division, owed pursuant to subsection 12 or 13 of this section;
- b. If, after deductions are made pursuant to subparagraph a. of this paragraph, an individual has remaining unemployment compensation amounts due and owing, and the individual owes support obligations or uncollected

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overissuances of food stamp coupons, the division shall first deduct and withhold any remaining unemployment compensation amounts for application to child support obligations owed by the individual;

- c. If, after deductions are made pursuant to subparagraphs a. and b. of this paragraph, an individual has remaining unemployment compensation amounts due and owing, and the individual owes uncollected overissuances of food stamp coupons, the division shall deduct and withhold any remaining unemployment compensation amounts for application to uncollected overissuances of food stamp coupons owed by the individual.
- 209 12. Any person who, by reason of the nondisclosure or misrepresentation 210 by such person or by another of a material fact, has received any sum as benefits 211 pursuant to this chapter while any conditions for the receipt of benefits imposed 212 by this chapter were not fulfilled in such person's case, or while he or she was 213 disqualified from receiving benefits, shall, in the discretion of the division, either 214 be liable to have such sums deducted from any future benefits payable to such 215 person pursuant to this chapter or shall be liable to repay to the division for the 216 unemployment compensation fund a sum equal to the amounts so received by him 217 or her. The division may recover such sums in accordance with the provisions of subsection 14 of this section. 218
- 219 13. Any person who, by reason of any error or omission or because of a 220 lack of knowledge of material fact on the part of the division, has received any sum of benefits pursuant to this chapter while any conditions for the receipt of 221 222 benefits imposed by this chapter were not fulfilled in such person's case, or while 223 such person was disqualified from receiving benefits, shall after an opportunity 224 for a fair hearing pursuant to subsection 2 of section 288.190, in the discretion 225 of the division, either be liable to have such sums deducted from any further 226 benefits payable to such person pursuant to this chapter, [provided that] or shall 227 be liable to repay to the division for the unemployment compensation 228 fund a sum equal to the amounts so received by him or her. The 229 division may recover such sums in accordance with the provisions of 230 subsection 14 of this section. However, the division may elect not to process 231 such possible overpayments where the amount of same is not over twenty percent 232of the maximum state weekly benefit amount in effect at the time the error or 233 omission was discovered.
- 14. Recovering overpaid unemployment compensation benefits shall be 235 pursued by the division against any person receiving such overpaid

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236 unemployment compensation benefits through billing, setoffs against state and 237 federal tax refunds to the extent permitted by federal law, intercepts of lottery winnings under section 313.321, and collection efforts as provided for in sections 238 239 288.160, 288.170, and 288.175.

- 15. Any person who has received any sum as benefits under the laws of another state, or under any unemployment benefit program of the United States administered by another state while any conditions for the receipt of benefits imposed by the law of such other state were not fulfilled in his or her case, shall after an opportunity for a fair hearing pursuant to subsection 2 of section 288.190 have such sums deducted from any further benefits payable to such person pursuant to this chapter, but only if there exists between this state and such other state a reciprocal agreement under which such entity agrees to recover benefit overpayments, in like fashion, on behalf of this state.
- 288.381. 1. The provisions of subsection [6] 8 of section 288.070 notwithstanding, benefits paid to a claimant pursuant to subsection [5] 7 of section 288.070 to which the claimant was not entitled based on a subsequent determination, redetermination or decision which has become final, shall be collectible by the division as provided in subsections 12 and 13 of section 288.380.
- 6 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, when a claimant who has been separated from his employment receives benefits under this chapter and subsequently receives a back pay award pursuant to action by 9 a governmental agency, court of competent jurisdiction or as a result of 10 arbitration proceedings, for a period of time during which no services were performed, the division shall establish an overpayment equal to the lesser of the 12 amount of the back pay award or the benefits paid to the claimant which were attributable to the period covered by the back pay award. After the claimant has 13 been provided an opportunity for a fair hearing under the provision of section 14 288.190, the employer shall withhold from the employee's back pay award the 15 amount of benefits so received and shall pay such amount to the division and 16 separately designate such amount.
  - 3. For the purposes of subsection 2 of this section, the division shall provide the employer with the amount of benefits paid to the claimant.
- 20 4. Any individual, company, association, corporation, partnership, bureau, 21 agency or the agent or employee of the foregoing who interferes with, obstructs, 22 or otherwise causes an employer to fail to comply with the provisions of 23 subsection 2 of this section shall be liable for damages in the amount of three

24 times the amount owed by the employer to the division. The division shall

25 proceed to collect such damages under the provisions of sections 288.160 and

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